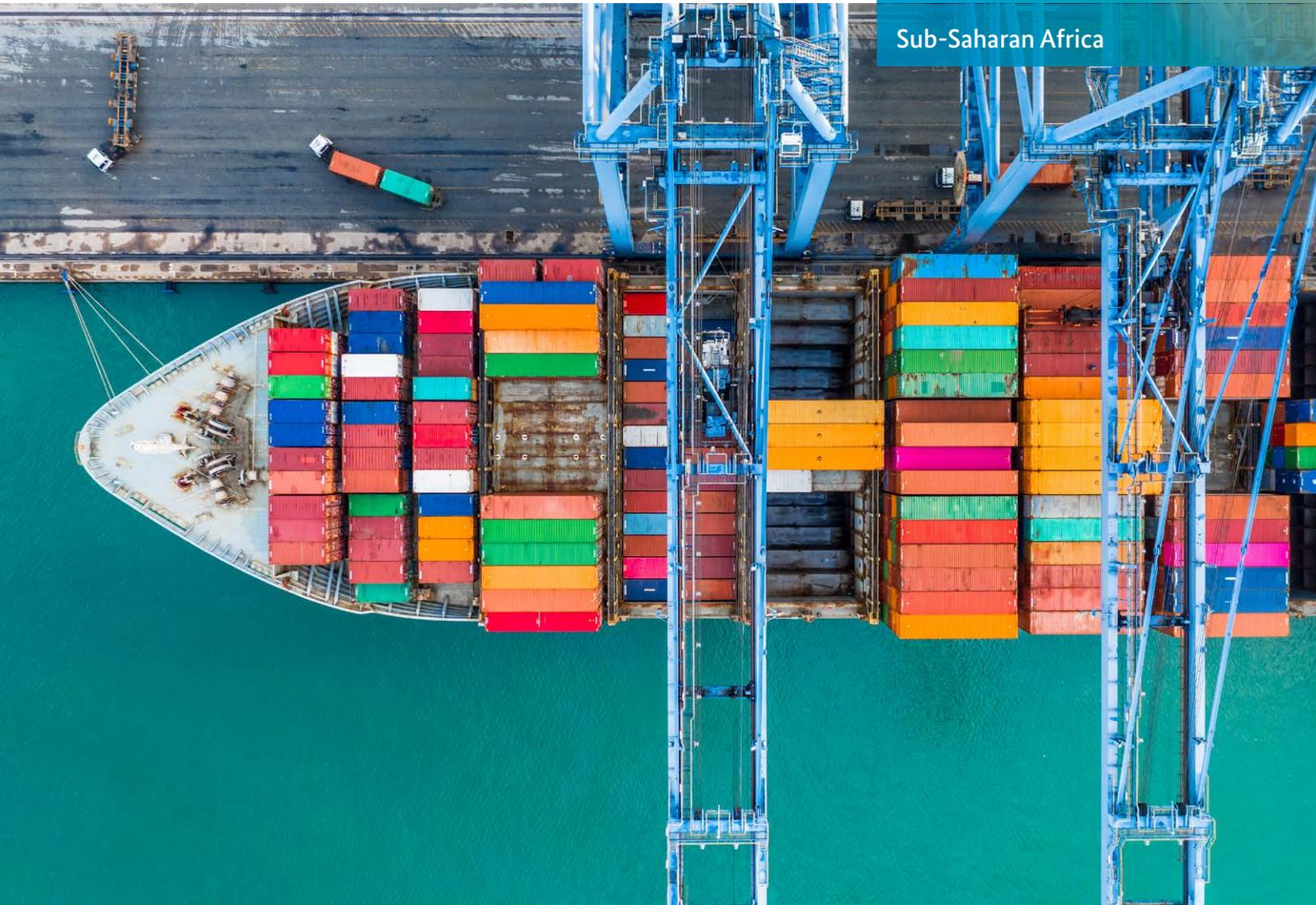


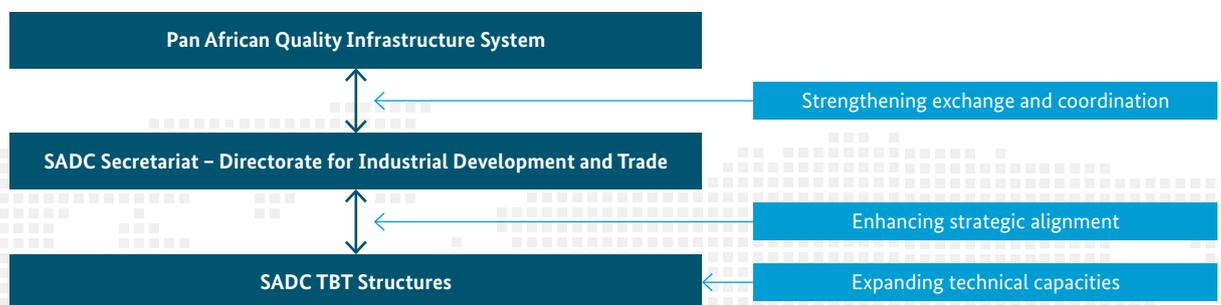
Sub-Saharan Africa



Southern African Development Community – SADC

Strengthening Quality Infrastructure for Trade and Consumer Protection II

- Objective** Strengthening regional quality infrastructure for free and fair trade and consumer protection, thereby making an important contribution to regional and continental economic integration.
- Approach** The project pursues a threefold strategy. It supports the SADC Secretariat as the main coordinating body for the removal of technical barriers to trade (TBT) in the region. As one component of this cooperation, a study will assess the state of the SADC TBT Annex, which formally regulates the field of regional quality infrastructure. This will provide crucial information for a future review of the Annex by the Member States. Moreover, the project supports the development of an overarching regional strategy for quality infrastructure to increase the cohesion and cooperation of the regional efforts. To promote the efficient integration of the SADC region as a building block into the African Continental Free Trade Area, the project aims at improving the workflow and division of labour between quality infrastructure at those two levels. Steady communication and deepened collaboration between the involved institutions are key tools for the dovetailing of regional and continental integration. Moreover, the project is committed to expanding the technical capacities of the regional quality infrastructure institutions which are part of the SADC TBT Structures. For these institutions, the project supports training and workshops to increase technical skills, accompanied by the targeted procurement of technical devices. Finally, the project promotes the role of women in quality infrastructure professions to increase their presence and influence in these key sectors.



Impact A reliable and harmonised quality infrastructure enables the SADC region to experience improved economic growth in line with its political objectives. Strengthening and harmonising metrology, accreditation, standards and technical regulations leads to a reduction in trade barriers and promotes market integration both within the SADC region and the African continent as a whole. When products and services comply with regional and international standards and regulations, tradability and exports increase. Beyond boosting competitiveness, these advancements also strengthen consumer safety by minimising risks from non-compliant products. The promotion of the role of women within quality infrastructure will also help to promote gender equality in technical fields and to develop innovative and inclusive solutions that meet the specific needs of all population groups. Thus, the project contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals formulated in the Agenda 2030, namely to reduce poverty (Goal 1) by fostering inclusive, sustainable growth (Goal 8), industrialisation (Goal 9), sustainable consumption and production (Goal 12) as well as the deepening of international partnerships (Goal 17).

Cooperation The project is being implemented in close cooperation with the SADC Secretariat, the SADC TBT Structures, and international partners to create synergies and effectively support the promotion of a reliable and regionally aligned quality infrastructure.

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